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Yale Studies in English. ALBERT S. COOK, Editor. II. Aelfric. A New Study of His Life and Writings. CAROLINE LOUISA WHITE, Ph.D. Boston, New York and London, Lamson, Wolfe & Co., 1898.

This study is based upon Dietrich's investigations, published in 1855 and 1856, in *Niedner's Zeitschrift für historische Theologie*, and its original purpose was to render the most important part of Dietrich's work accessible to English readers. In works where we should look for some reference to Dietrich, he is wholly ignored. Dietrich's papers considered Aelfric's writings; the teachings of the O. E. church according to Aelfric's writings; Aelfric's education and character; and Aelfric's life.

Dr. White has subjected Dietrich's work to a most careful examination, and to independent investigations, which have confirmed, in great part, Dietrich's results, and enriched them with the fruits of the last fifty years' study in this field. The 'New Study' is introduced by a chapter on the monastic revival, not found in Dietrich. In succeeding chapters we have accounts of Aelfric at Winchester; at the abbey of Cernal; and at the abbey at Eynsham, in which a result is reached different from that of Dietrich, according to whom Aelfric returned from Cernal to Winchester, and perhaps went elsewhere. The chapters on Aelfric's education and character are translations from Dietrich, as is also that upon the exploded theories of his identity, but with modifications and additions. The chapters upon Aelfric's writings include original and independent reviews of his Homilies; Grammatical and Astronomical Writings; Lives of the Saints; Pastoral Letters or Canons; Translations from the Bible; On the Old and New Testaments; Life of Aethelwold; *De Consuetudine Monachorum*; and Prefaces. In Appendixes Dr. White gives us More's Treatise on Aelfric's Identity; Summaries of Förster's Study of the Sources of the Exegetical Homilies; Reum's Study of the Authorship of the *De Temporibus*; McLean's and Tessmann's Studies of the O. E. Interrogations; Ott's Study of the Sources of the Legendary Homilies in *Lives of the Saints*, I; and Assmann's Study of Aelfric's Judith. A very full Bibliography, a Classified Bibliography, and an Index, make Dr. White's Study a complete apparatus for the student of Aelfric, brought down to date, in which all that is valuable and ascertained in past scholarship is preserved and made accessible. Great charm and vividness is given to the treatment by the biographical and historical details and portraiture. The recovery of so engaging a personality in O. E. literature and life from the confusion in which it became obscured, gives a romantic interest to the study.

No attempt is made to give the views of the O. E. church drawn by Dietrich from Aelfric's writings. This is wisely left to separate treatment, which should include a comparative study of the writings of others, for a satisfactory revision of the

antiquated views of Lingard and Soames. As nearly all of Aelfric's writings before unpublished have been printed since Dietrich's papers appeared, the scholar is now better prepared to undertake it.

There remains much work upon the sources of the Exegetical Homilies, to which Max Förster has made valuable contributions in the Anglia, in order to make them serviceable in the criticism of Aelfric's Biblical translation.

Miss White's 'New Study' is a solid and admirable piece of work, which does honor to American O. E. scholarship, and especially to the work at Yale University. It is a revelation of the great advance among us in recent years in O. E. studies, which promises to overtake at no distant day the German scholarship, which has hitherto held the first place.

CHARLES EDWARD HART.